

In the Specification

Please delete the paragraph on page 14, line 2, of the specification, and replace with the following paragraph:

In an alternate embodiment, cover 312 includes a plurality of apertures in the top portion to provide low air loss therapy. In another example, top portion 315 of cover 312 is formed to contain a heating element such as Gorix™ material. Controller 334 is electrically coupled to the heating element. The heating element is used to warm the patient on support 300. An example support incorporating a heating material is disclosed in copending US Patent Application Serial No. 09/701,499, now U.S. Patent No. 6,582,456, filed on November 29, 2000 by Hand et al. and titled "Heated Patient Support Apparatus," the disclosure of which is herein expressly incorporated by reference.

Listing of Claims

1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to support at least a portion of a body thereon, the apparatus comprising:

an inflatable first layer including a plurality of support zones;

a second layer positioned between the inflatable first layer and the portion of the body to be supported, the second layer including a spacing structure; ~~and~~

an impermeable sheet configured to be impermeable to fluids and moisture, the impermeable sheet disposed between the inflatable first layer and the second layer;

a cover configured to couple to the impermeable sheet, the cover including a first portion positioned adjacent the portion of the body to be supported, the first portion including a moisture vapor permeable material; and

a controller configured to control the pressure in each support zone of the plurality of support zones of the inflatable first layer, the inflatable first layer configured to provide a static support surface wherein a first support zone is configured to be generally pressurized at a first pressure and a second support zone is configured to be generally pressurized at a second pressure, the second pressure differing from the first pressure.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first support zone generally corresponds to the head of the body to be supported and the second support zone generally corresponds to the feet of the body to be supported.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of support zones includes a plurality of bladders.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the inflatable first layer is configured to provide at least one therapy to the portion of the body supported thereon.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein at least one of the support zones of the inflatable first layer is configured to provide a percussion therapy.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the plurality of bladders of the at least one support zone configured to provide percussion therapy are inflated and deflated at a rate of between about 1 Hertz to about 25 Hertz.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein at least one of the support zones of the inflatable first layer is configured to provide an alternating pressure therapy.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein all of the support zones of the inflatable first layer are configured to provide an alternating pressure therapy.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claims 17, wherein the spacing structure includes a three dimensional engineered material having a plurality of resilient members.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claims 17, wherein the spacing structure includes indented fiber networks.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17 ~~claim 27~~, wherein the cover is coupled to a source of air to provide air circulation through the second layer and the through the moisture vapor permeable material of the first portion of the cover.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a heating element to provide heat to at least a portion of the body supported thereon.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the heating element is controlled by the controller.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to support at least a portion of a body thereon, the apparatus comprising:

an inflatable first layer including a plurality of support zones, the plurality of support zones including a first support zone which generally corresponds to the chest region of the body;

a second layer positioned between the first layer and the portion of the body to be supported, the second layer comprising a spacing structure;

a controller configured to control the pressure of each support zone of the first inflatable layer and further to control the pressure of the first support zone to provide a percussion therapy to the chest region of the body; and

a cover positioned between the second layer and the portion of the body to be supported, the cover including a moisture vapor permeable material; and

an impermeable sheet configured to be impermeable to fluids and moisture, the impermeable sheet disposed between the first layer and the second layer.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31 ~~claim 32~~, wherein the cover defines an interior region, the second layer being positioned within the interior region.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a source of air coupled to the cover such that air is forced through the second layer.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the cover defines an interior region, the second layer being positioned within the interior region, and at least

a portion of a top surface of the cover is made from the moisture vapor permeable ~~a breathable~~ material, the portion of the top surface and the second layer cooperating to provide cooling for the body supported on the portion of the top surface.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising a source of air coupled to the cover to provide air circulation through the second layer.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the inflatable first layer is further configured to provide an alternating pressure therapy.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the inflatable first layer is further configured to provide a rotational therapy.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the spacing structure includes a three dimensional engineered material having a plurality of resilient members.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the spacing structure includes indented fiber networks.

41. (Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to support at least a portion of a body thereon, the apparatus comprising:

a base portion including an inflatable first layer having a plurality of support zones, each zone having associated support characteristics;

a pressure distribution layer supported by at least a first zone of the base portion, the pressure distribution layer including a spacing structure configured to provide air passage therethrough and to distribute pressure from the body over a greater area of the first zone; and

a cover positioned between the pressure distribution layer and the portion of the body to be supported, the cover being coupled to a first source of air to provide air circulation through the pressure distribution layer, the cover including a first portion made from a moisture vapor permeable material, the first portion of the cover and the pressure distribution layer cooperating to provide cooling to the body;

an impermeable sheet configured to be impermeable to fluids and moisture, the impermeable sheet disposed between the base portion and the pressure distribution layer; and

a controller configured to control the pressure in each support zone of the plurality of support zones of the inflatable first layer.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the inflatable first layer includes a plurality of inflatable bladders, each of the plurality of support zones including at least one of the plurality of bladders.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the controller controls the pressure of the plurality of bladders of at least the first support zone to provide alternating pressure therapy to the body.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the first support zone generally supports the chest region of the body and the controller controls the pressure of the plurality of bladders of at least the first support zone to provide percussion therapy to the chest region of the body.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the plurality of bladders of the at least one support zone configured to provide percussion therapy are inflated and deflated at a rate of between about 1 Hertz to about 25 Hertz.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the controller controls the pressure of the plurality of bladders of at least the first support zone to provide rotational therapy to the body.

49. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41 ~~claim 44~~, wherein the base portion is coupled to a second source of air, the amount of air received by the pressure distribution layer from the first source of air and the amount of air received by the base portion from the second source of air being controlled by the controller.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, further comprising a heating element to provide heat to at least a portion of the body supported thereon.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the heating element is controlled by the controller.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the pressure distribution layer is supported by each zone of the base portion and is positioned in an interior region of the cover.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the base portion is positioned in the interior region of the cover.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the spacing structure includes a three dimensional engineered material having a plurality of resilient members.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the spacing structure includes indented fiber networks.

56. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41 ~~claim 1~~, wherein at least one support zone of the base portion includes a foam portion.

57. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein one of the covers and the impermeable sheet is coupled to the inflatable first layer.

58. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein one of the cover and the impermeable sheet is coupled to the inflatable first layer.

59. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein one of the cover and the impermeable sheet is coupled to the base portion.